



Testimony of Kathy Martin
Labor and Public Employees Committee
HB 6934: AAC Wages Paid to Individuals Providing Food, Building,
Property or Equipment Services to Municipalities
March 3, 2015

Good afternoon, Senator Gomes, Representative Tercyak, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Kathy Martin. I am a Vice President of AFSCME Local 2267, representing Bristol Board of Education cafeteria staff, custodians, and paraprofessionals.

I want to ask for your support for HB 6934: An Act Concerning Wages Paid to Individuals Providing Food, Building, Property or Equipment Services to Municipalities to help make sure that our tax dollars stay in our local communities to support middle class jobs.

I have worked as a cafeteria aide in the Bristol schools for over 14 years cooking and serving meals to our kids. Because of my union contract, I make a decent salary with health insurance and a retirement plan. About two years ago, the Bristol Board of Education voted to outsource school cafeteria services to a private company. The company they voted to contract with is based in Long Island, NY.

The company was promising big savings for taxpayers. However, when you take a closer look the savings were going to come from reducing the wages and benefits of myself and my 52 coworkers.

I live in Bristol and pay taxes in Bristol. When you take away my salary, when you make it impossible for me to afford retirement, when you push me onto public assistance programs, that increases costs for taxpayers and lowers property values.

This bill, by requiring private companies that are hired to perform basic public services, to treat their employees with respect will make sure our taxpayer dollars stay in our communities. If a private company wants to do business in our cities, towns and Boards of Education, they should be adding value and not sending profits out of state.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions.